

Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP) Benefits for Guard and Reserve Members Ordered to Active Service

in Support of Contingency Operations and Certain Other Operations

Under the provisions under H.R 4200, the creation of a new education benefit was signed into law on October 28, 2004. The new benefit, Chapter 1607 under Title 10, makes certain individuals who were activated on or after September 11, 2001 eligible for educational assistance benefits* which may be in addition to other benefits if qualified for more than one VA educational assistance program. If you have served on active duty in support of a contingency operation or national emergency for at least 90 consecutive days, you may be entitled to educational assistance benefits that are outlined in the chart below. The amount of educational benefits to be provided under this program is primarily contingent on the amount of continuous time you have served. In many cases, these benefits are retroactive.

If you were on active service for:	And entered from.... Selected Reserves	Or IRR/ING	32 USC National Guard ³
< 90 Days	40% benefits ¹ only if released from AD due to injury or illness ²	40% benefits ¹ only if released from AD due to injury or illness ²	40% benefits ¹ only if released from AD due to injury or illness ²
≥90-364 Days	40% benefits ¹	40% benefits ¹	40% benefits ¹
≥365-729 days	60% benefits ¹	60% benefits ¹	60% benefits ¹
≥730 Days	80% benefits ¹	80% benefits ¹	80% benefits ¹

Note: If Member entered on active service from the Standby or Retired Reserve, this benefit does not apply. Also, once active service is completed, eligibility is contingent upon Guard or Reserve member status.⁴

Unlike the Active Duty Montgomery GI Bill, this entitlement is free to eligible members (i.e., no \$1200.00 fee required).

* This benefit is *limited to a cumulative maximum of 36 months* of full Lifetime (or equivalent part-time) benefits and may be paid in addition to benefits previously received or eligible to be received from other VA educational programs, e.g., the Montgomery GI Bill (Active Duty or Selected Reserve), etc., subject to the following limitation(s): A member receiving educational assistance benefits, including Chapter 1607, may not receive more than 48 months of entitlement (cumulative-lifetime) under any combination of educational assistance programs to which entitled (VA or DoD). If the member qualifies for this program and the Montgomery GI Bill (Active Duty) based on the same period of service, then an irrevocable election (made through the VA in conjunction with the respective Service) between the two programs must be made. If separated from the Ready Reserve due to a disability (not due to willful misconduct), entitlement will expire 10 years from the date of entitlement to educational assistance. Service used to qualify for this benefit cannot be used to satisfy the 6-year Selected Reserve obligation required to establish entitlement to the Montgomery GI Bill-Selected Reserve under Chapter 1606, 10 USC.

- Upon receiving the full 36 months of benefits (or 48 months if using if used in combination with other programs)
 - If member receives educational assistance as a member of the senior ROTC Program⁵
 - If member transfers from the Reserve Component status / category in which serving when called to active duty⁴ (includes transition to Retired, Standby, Active Duty, or Separation) for reasons other than disability
- Other events will also result in Termination of Benefits:
- Billet Loss (Transfer to IRR-even if not member's choice/fault)
 - High Year Tenure
 - Death

¹ These benefits are based on a monetary scale relative to Montgomery GI Bill benefits, as described in section 3015 of title 38

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² If incurred or aggravated due to military service--Requires Line of Duty determination

³ Applies to Army or Air National Guard personnel performing active service authorized in response to a national emergency supported by

Federal funds

⁴ IRR members must remain in the Ready Reserve--Selected Reserve members must remain in the Selected Reserve (Exception: A one-time

only break in service of not more than 90 days authorized for Selected Reserve members as long as they remain in the Ready Reserve during the

break in service) to enroll for REAP education benefits, submit an Application for VA Education Benefits" (**VA Form 22-1990**) under section 2107 of 10 USC

**ALL applications and claims for this educational assistance benefit must be filed through the
respective
Service Point(s) of Contact prior to being submitted to the Department of Veterans Affairs.**